3	*Project Tiger	654.052	760.802	979.998
4	*Project Elephant	200.00	558.60	480.00

*Under 'Project Elephant' scheme, assistance is provided to the States for identified elephant habitats, which also include some national parks. Under Project Tiger assistance is provided to the States for identified 'Tiger reserves' whose core areas are primarily National Parks.

New Petroleum Policy

1693. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) at what level the New Petroleum Policy was approved;

(b) whether it was subjected to a National level debate before approving; and

(c) how does our New Petroleum Policy compare with that of other Asian Countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) In the wake of the new Industrial Policy and the economic reforms enunciated by the Government, the Hydrocarbon sector has been opened for private/foreign investment in various areas like exploration, refining and marketing. Different elements of the New Petroleum Policy are introduced in consultation with other concerned Ministries after approval of competent authority. Various issues have been and are being discussed widely at different fora. New policy initiatives are being taken to meet the strategic objective of developing a dynamic and vibrant Oil Industry which would be internationally competitive and capable of global presence. The new policy is still envolving.

Linking of Kakinada with Madras by Buckingham Canal

1694. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in regard of linking of Kakinada with Madras through Buckingham Canal in order to improve inland water transport facilities;

(b) if so, whether Government have given its approval to the project;

(c) if not, by when the project is likely to be cleared;

(d) the estimated cost of the project; and

(e) the financial assitance likely to be provided by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the improvement of Buckingham Canal, Commamur Canal, Eluri Canal and Kakinada Canal, was submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1988. The matter was examined in consultation with the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Ultimately, it was decided by the Inland Waterways

Authority of India (IWAI) to carry out the techno-economic feasibility study on the entire canal system connecting Kakinada and Madras which includes Kakinada, Eluru, Commamuru and the Buckingham Canal. The field study has already been completed and the IWAI's Consultants, RITES have since submitted the draft report.

A decision on the development of this canal system, estimated cost of the project and the financial assistance to be provided by the Govenrment, would depend on the findings of the techno-economic feasibility study.

Cost of LPG Cylinder

1695. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement cost of a 14.2 KG empty LPG cylinder and its book value after one year of its purchase;

(b) whether any list indicating the number and series of the LPG cylinders procured by the oil corporations are circulated to their respective distributors/ area offices;

(c) whether the technically spurious LPG gas cylinders were accepted by the respective oil corporations in the plant from the distributor; and

(d) if so, how many such cylinders were accepted by the bottling plants during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) The average procurement cost of a 14.2 kg. cylinder comes to around Rs. 900 per cylinder inclusive of cost of valve and excise duty, sales tax and freight. The cost of cylinder is zero after full capitalisation.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) The empty cylinders received by the bottling plants from the distributors are subjected to close scrutiny to ascertain their genuineness. The details of the technically spurious cylinders received at bottling plants during the last three years are as under:-

1992-93 — 21720
1993-94 — 22147
1994-95 — 20653

Appointment of Translators in Central Translation Bureau

1696. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Translation Bureau has appointed 'Senior Translators' to the persons taken on deputation, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Central Translation Bureau has terminated the services of any of the employees so far, if so, the complete details with facts thereof;

(c) whether the Department has not promoted some 'Senior Translators' inspite of the fact that they are regularised by the Department, whereas some juniors have been promoted if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of representations received in all such cases and action taken by the Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI): (a) The following officials have been appointed on deputation to the post of Sr. Translator in Central Translation Bureau:—

1. Smt. Anita Pandey
2. Shri Pradeep Raj Sharma,
3. Shri Jagat Singh
4. Shri H.K.P. Lakhera
5. Shri Rajeev Kumar Bangia
6. Shri Rajesh Taneja
7. Shri K.S. Bora

(b) After 1.1.94, on the basis of decision of Hon'ble CAT, the Bureau has terminated the services of 3 ad-hoc employees.

(c) The Central Translation Bureau has not made any regular promotion from